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CLASSIFICATION

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STAT

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER
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Subject: *SIHANOUK PRESS CONFERENCE*

Time Stamp

Source : *FBIS 18*

Date/Time

Group :

Distribution: DCI, DDCI, EX/DIR, DDI (2), DDP (via CSDO), DDS&T, D/OCI (4), C/OPSCEN, D/ONE, C/CGS, D/OSI, CH/WATCH COMM, SAVA, CSDO, PDB, INDICO, ORR/CSS, [] SDO, Added: DDS, []

STAT

FBIS 18

SIHANOUK PRESS CONFERENCE

PHNOM PENH IN FRENCH TO SOUTHEAST ASIA 0600Z 22 MAR 67 S

REPORTAGE ON A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY PRINCE SIHANOUK ON 22 MARCH IN PHNOM PENH)

(EDITORIAL REPORT) PRINCE SIHANOUK BEGINS BY ANNOUNCING A REPORT RECEIVED FROM A FRIEND CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF CIA AGENTS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND ASSEMBLY AND THE FACT THAT CERTAIN KHMER OFFICERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS WORK FOR THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THE FRIEND OBTAINED THE NEWS FROM A CIA AGENT NAMED (GEORGES BROWN MALCOLM) DURING A FLIGHT FROM TOKYO TO SAIGON VIA HONG KONG. THE FRIEND REPORTED THAT MALCOLM) CONFIDED THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE DECIDED TO ELIMINATE SIHANOUK SOON. HE SAID IT TOOK THE CIA TWO YEARS TO DEBUNK PRESIDENT SUKARNO.

PRINCE SIHANOUK SAYS THE AMERICANS WILL DO THE SAME THING IN CAMBODIA AS THEY HAVE ALREADY DONE WITH BEN BELLA, NKRUH, AND OTHERS. THE PRINCE GOES ON TO RELATE (MALCOLM'S) STORY THAT THE AMERICANS WILL USE TRICKERY INSTEAD OF INVADING CAMBODIA AND THAT DE GAULLE HAS STERNLY WARNED THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT AGAINST HARMING SIHANOUK AND CAMBODIA.

PRINCE SIHANOUK SAYS THAT (MALCOLM) PREDICTED THAT "BY THE END OF THIS YEAR THE COUP WILL SUCCEED DUE TO THE ACCOMPLICES WE HAVE SECURED IN CAMBODIA," THAT IS, SYMPATHIZERS IN THE KHMER ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNMENT, ROYAL PALACE, AND TWO HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS WITH LARGE DEPOSITS IN A SWISS BANK WHO HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH STAGING A COUP AGAINST SIHANOUK WITH THE HELP OF THE ARMY. PRINCE SIHANOUK ASSERTS THAT HE DOES NOT THE NAMES OF THE TWO OFFICERS WHO RECEIVE MONEY FROM CIA-OPERATED BANK DEPOSITS.

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HE SAYS THREE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN BRIBED BY THE CIA TO SEND INFORMATION TO THEIR MASTERS IN SAIGON AND THAT THERE IS A TRAITOR IN THE ROYAL PALACE ITSELF SPYING ON SIHANOUK'S PRIVATE LIFE. IN THIS CONNECTION, PRINCE SIHANOUK SAYS HE HAS NOTHING TO FEAR BECAUSE HE HAS LED A VERY AUSTERE LIFE AND BECAUSE HIS FAMILY WORRIES ARE NOTHING COMPARED WITH THE FUTURE OF CAMBODIA, WHICH HAS BEEN ENDANGERED EVER SINCE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BY THE MANEUVERS OF DAP CHHUON, SAM SARY, AND SON NGOC THANH AND WHICH IS THREATENED NOW BY TRICKS TO ELIMINATE SIHANOUK AND PUT CAMBODIA UNDER COLONIALIST RULE. HE ASSERTS THAT HE DOES NOT WANT HIS COUNTRY TO BE DOMINATED BY ANY COUNTRY--THE UNITED STATES, THAILAND, OR EVEN CHINA OR THE SOVIET UNION.

AFTER REPEATING (MALCOLM'S) WARNING THAT TO BE LEFT ALONE IN HIS POSITION AS CHIEF OF STATE SIHANOUK MUST NOT ONLY PROFESS HE IS A NONCOMMUNIST BUT MUST ALSO ADMIT HIS ERRORS, CHANGE HIS POLICY, AND COOPERATE WITH THE UNITED STATES, PRINCE SIHANOUK ASKS FOREIGN JOURNALISTS TO CONVEY TO THE ENTIRE WORLD HIS DEFIANCE OF ANY ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE AND HIS DETERMINATION AND THAT OF HIS PEOPLE TO RESIST THE AMERICANS TO THE END RATHER THAN GIVE IN AND CHANGE HIS POLICY.

CLAIMING THAT HE IS NOT AFRAID OF THE "PIGS AND IDIOTS," PRINCE SIHANOUK CALLS ON KHMER PATRIOTS, NATIONALISTS, AND YOUTHS TO STRUGGLE TO WARD OFF U.S. DOMINATION. HE ADDS THAT THE CAMBODIANS WILL FIGHT LIKE THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, AND THAT EVEN AFTER HE HAS BEEN OVERTHROWN OR DISSAPPEARS THE MAJORITY OF CAMBODIANS WILL STRUGGLE AGAINST TRAITORS COMING TO POWER.

IN CONCLUSION, PRINCE SIHANOUK SAYS THAT REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE REPORT FROM HIS FRIEND--WHO IS A FRIEND OF PRO-RED CHAU SENG--IS TRUE, THE KHMER PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE FOLLOWING THE COUP TO BE STAGED BY THE AMERICANS WILL BE LED TOWARD COMMUNISM, NOT BECAUSE OF SIHANOUK BUT BECAUSE OF THE ANTICOMMUNIST AND RIGHTIST ELEMENTS AND BECAUSE OF THE AMERICANS. THE PRINCE PREDICTS THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT MAY HAPPEN BECAUSE CAMBODIA'S SITUATION DIFFERS FROM THAT OF INDONESIA.

23 MAR 0944Z HDW/CH